

Juanita Irene Bailey Cleveland | 1920-2014

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Juanita Irene Bailey Cleveland, 93, of Paradise, died Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, in Decatur. Funeral is 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Jones Family Funeral Home in Bridgeport with Danny Russell officiating. Burial will follow at Cottondale Cemetery.

Juanita was born April 9, 1920, in the oil fields of Burkburnett to Maude (Vandiver) and Leonard Bailey. The Baileys, along with baby son R. J., left Keeter in the fall of 1919 and moved to Burkburnett. They planned to make as much money as they could and move back in a few years.

In 1922, son Leon Vaughn was born, and in 1925, twin girls Dorothy and Doris were born. Conditions were harsh in the oil boomtown, and for a while they lived in a tent by the railroad tracks because housing was so scarce. Juanita told of her father taking off his wet overalls when it was so cold they were frozen and would stand alone in the corner.

In the fall of 1927, the Baileys moved back to Wise County, and Juanita started school in Boyd. In 1931, brother Gene Winford was born.

Juanita met Floyd Cleveland of Cottondale in 1938 at a party in the Garvin Community Center. They were married Oct. 10, 1939, in Springtown. They moved to a three-room house Floyd's dad and their family had built for them near Cottondale. Floyd and Juanita raised watermelons, peanuts and cattle and made a good living. Their son, Coy, was born Aug. 19, 1940, and daughter Shirley was born Aug. 22, 1943. The family always had plenty, and Juanita, being a good cook, fed and helped many people in the community. There was never one too many at mealtime.

She carried many people around in her 1941 Ford coupe, which she called "the chicken coop." On May 14, 1963, Juanita proudly became a grandmother, and from then on she was known as Granny.

She is survived by her two children; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and many friends. She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; three brothers; and two sisters.